



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

CITY HALL
10300 TORRE AVENUE • CUPERTINO, CA 95014-3255
TELEPHONE: (408) 777-3223 • FAX: (408) 777-3366
CUPERTINO.ORG

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: February 19, 2019

Subject

Renewal of Friendship City Relationships

Recommended Action

Approve renewal of five Friendship City relationships, including Jiangmen, China; Taichung, Taiwan; Taipei, Taiwan; Yilan, Taiwan; and Zhaoqing, China.

Discussion

The Cupertino City Council established a Friendship City program in September 2016. Although less formal than a Sister City relationship, a Friendship City relationship is also an important way to foster international cooperation at a local level. At its peak, the Friendship City program had 27 established relationships.

At its November 20, 2018, meeting the City Council considered updates to the City's *Policies and Guidelines on Sister Cities, Friendship Cities, and International Delegations*. This included Council's approval of renewal criteria for expiring Friendship City relationships. However, Council exempted from this criteria two Friendship Cities that were requesting renewal that same night: Luoyang, China and Shenzhen, China. Including those two cities, Cupertino currently has 12 active Friendship City relationships.

Council has since requested that staff reach out to the 15 other Friendship Cities whose two-year terms expired between September and December 2018 and exempt them from the new criteria if they desired to continue a relationship with Cupertino. Out of the 15 Friendship Cities, five have expressed their desire to renew their relationships with the City:

- Jiangmen, China
- Taichung, Taiwan
- Taipei, Taiwan
- Yilan, Taiwan
- Zhaoqing, China

If approved, these five Friendship City relationships would last for two years and expire in February 2021. Once expired they, along with the 12 current Friendship Cities, would be required to go through the Council-approved renewal process.

Five current Friendship City relationships will be expiring this May. They include Beijing, China; Guangzhou, China; Guiyang, China; Huizhou, China; and Xuzhou, China. Staff will be reaching out to them before the end of this month to alert them of the expiration and help them through the new renewal process.

Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impact.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Brian Babcock, Public Information Officer

Approved for Submission by: Timm Borden, Interim City Manager

Attachments:

A – *Policies and Guidelines on Sister Cities, Friendship Cities, and International Delegations*

B – Cupertino Friendship Cities